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224367

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: Supplement to December 4, 2008 Public Statement in FD-35106.

Dear Chairman Nottingham.

I wanted to thank you again for both conducting a public hearing in Nevada and permitting the public an opportunity to discuss their concerns regarding DOE's proposed Caliente Corridor

I hope that the attached materials will help frame Nye County's filed comments and the presentation that I made in Las Vegas by providing more information concerning the importance of a through-going rail line in the context of the national and regional rail traffic flow in and around Nevada. A through going route provides options that preclude single node failure of the transportation system, eliminates virtually all of the nuclear shipments through the Las Vegas valley and serves to better integrate DOE's national transportation plan with rail transportation within Nevada. DOE's dead end spur proposal is a sub-optimal and does little to serve the broader public interest



Jeffrey D. VanNiel
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Train derailment causes bridge collapse

Union Pacific's Northern Nevada line shut down for repairs

By MARTIN GRIFFITH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENO -- A freight train derailed in Northern Nevada, triggering a bridge collapse and major disruptions in rail service on one of the country's main east-west lines, Union Pacific officials said

The derailment occurred Saturday morning in a remote area along the Humboldt River about 10 miles west of Carlin and 260 miles east of Reno, Union Pacific spokeswoman Zoe Richmond said

She said 13 cars containing grain were involved in the derailment and she was unsure how many cars the westbound locomotives were hauling. No injuries were reported.

The 102-year-old bridge spanning the river collapsed a couple of hours after the derailment, Richmond said, and railroad officials are unsure how long it'll take to restore it

"Any derailment is tough, but we knew this one would be a bit tougher because it involved both a bridge and a derailment," Richmond said

The line across Northern Nevada connects Oakland, Calif , and Salt Lake City as well as other points east

With the line shut down, Union Pacific's closest alternate east-west lines are located to the north and south, with one going through Portland, Ore , and the other passing through Las Vegas

"Definitely, it's going to cause major disruptions in rail service," Richmond said. "The other lines are not desirable because they take a lot longer" and involve greater expense.

Amtrak uses the same line, but it was not immediately clear the effect the bridge collapse would have on its California Zephyr service, a spokeswoman said

Union Pacific officials hope to come up with a plan by Monday on how to deal with the bridge

"We once fixed another bridge in about a week, and we should know in the next couple of days how long it's going to take to get this bridge up and running," Richmond said.

The locomotives had passed through an 875-foot tunnel when the derailment occurred. Three cars derailed inside the tunnel and at least a couple of cars ended up in the river.

Union Pacific is investigating the derailment's cause. Among other things, investigators will examine

a "black box" that recorded the engineer's actions. Most Union Pacific locomotives also are mounted with a camera.

Find this article at:

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/36798304.html>

☐ Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document and attachment was served on the following Parties of Record by (1) first-class U S mail, postage prepaid, (2) e-mail as shown, or (3) other expeditious method, this 19th day of January, 2009.

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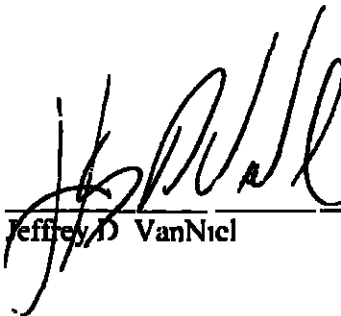
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